

August 2013

Smokeyumper Obituary: Werner, Harold (North Cascades 1948)

National Smokeyumper Association

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Smokejumper Obituary

Werner, Harold (North Cascades 1948)

Hal, 82, died Aug. 4, 2013, in Leavenworth, Washington. Following service in the U.S. Air Force in the Korean War in 1951-55, Hal resumed jumping, spending the 1955 season in Cave Junction and 1957 in Redding.

He then returned to get his degree in Physical Education from Brigham Young University and later his master's from Washington State, where he completed the first study on javelin technique ever conducted on the West Coast.

Hal had a throw of 224 feet, 9 inches for BYU in 1956, qualifying him for the NCAA championships. He competed internationally that summer and had a career-best throw of 232-4, and a personal best of 232-10 with a wooden javelin in Finland.

Hal coached at Eastern Washington, Simon Fraser, Whitworth and St. Martin's universities, as well as in Kuwait, Hungary, Ghana, Burundi, Mexico and Syria. His coaching and teaching career spanned 51 years, with retirement in 2010; he also operated Ptarmigan Products, which produced insoles for athletes' shoes.

Hal was to have been inducted in the Eastern Washington University Athletic Hall of Fame Oct. 5 but will now be honored posthumously. He trained at North Cascades in 1948 and jumped there through 1951 before his military service.

(end of excerpt)